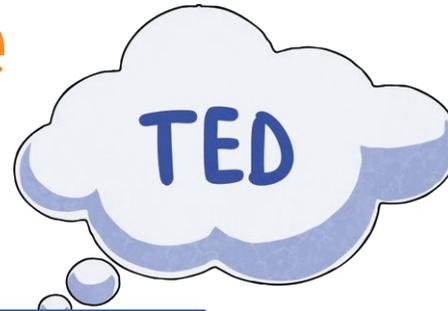# How to Support When a Child Makes a Disclosure

TED

Actively Listen

- Create a safe, trusting space for the child.
- Accept what the child says without judgement.
- Listen to the child's words and the phrases they use (voice of the child).
- Recognise signs of abuse and non-verbal clues.
- Give the child time to share.
- Show you care – focus on the child and use open body language.
- Be aware of your own emotional reaction and stay calm.
- Resist the urge to speculate, jump to conclusions or solve the problem yourself.

Find Out and Support

- Communicate in a way that is appropriate to the child's age and level of understanding.
- Ask non-leading questions to find out more. The acronym 'TED' can help you to structure this:

T - Tell me more...

E - Explain...

D - Describe...

- Validate the child's emotions by offering support, e.g. reassuring them that they've done nothing wrong, acknowledging how hard it must have been to talk about this.
- Explain you will need to tell the member of staff who's in charge of keeping children safe. Don't ask them to repeat the information themselves.
- Reassure the child that it's your job to support them and keep them safe.

Act Immediately

- Follow your setting's procedures for recording safeguarding concerns.
- Record full details of the disclosure by using the child's own words and include any actions you have taken. If using paper, write in pen and include your name, signature, the date and time.
- Share the information with the DSL (or the DDSL/other senior staff member) straight away.
- Remember, GDPR regulations do not prevent information sharing when it comes to safeguarding children.
- If you feel the concern has not been dealt with appropriately, escalate it to the headteacher or your local authority.
- If you fear the child is in imminent danger, contact the safeguarding team in your local authority or the police.
- Recognise your own needs. Taking a disclosure from a child can be emotionally challenging – what support do you need?

Safeguarding – remember, it could happen here.

visit twinkl.com/leaders